1.	Name: Bethesda M.E. Church	
2.	Planning Area/Site Number: 10/11	3. M-NCPPC Atlas Reference: Map 2
	Address: Bethesda Church Road Browningsville Classification Summary	Coordinate F-11
•	Category building Ownership private Public Acquisition N/A Status unoccupied Accessible no	Previous Survey Recording MNCPPC Title and Date: Inventory of Historical Sites, 1976 Federal State x County x Local
6.	Present use unused	inal Owner: Trustees of Bethesda Church
8.	Apparent Condition	
	o foin h altered	o original site

9. Description: This 5 bay by 7 bay, $1\frac{1}{2}$ story frame church faces northeast. It has fieldstone foundations and has recently been covered by textured aluminum siding clapboards. The church is composed of 2 parallel structures with a square corner tower above a porch between them. The tower is open at the first level, extends up a full 2 stories and has a flat roof. The modern clear triple-run lancet windows are grouped singly and in pairs.

This church has a cross gabled roof, with a total of five cross gables on the four elevations. The roof has pressed metal covering. There is a round window in each of these gable ends. The cornices are all boxed and returned. On the northwest elevation there is a five-sided, two story apse. There are two lancet windows set into the apse which has a cross gable roof. 10. Significance: The Church represents a rural Methodist congregation which dates back perhaps as early as 1808. The congregation came from Frederick as well as upper Montgomery County. By 1871 the old church was too small for the congregation; it was demolished and the current frame church constructed.

The builder was probably John Mount, well known in the Damascus area. The cemetery, which surrounds the church, grew throughout the years, small portions of land being added gradually as needed.

By 1955 the congregation had outgrown the 1871 church and the Trustees purchased 5 acres of land at the corner of Bethesda Church and Kemptown Roads on which to construct a new one. The old memorial windows were transferred to the new church, and it was dedicated in June 1978.

The congregation, which numbers over 375, plans to demolish the 1871

structure.

Candy Reed/Architectural Description 1. Researcher and date researched: Eileen McGuckian May 1979

13. Date Compiled: May 1979 14. Designation 12. Compiler: Eileen McGuckian Approval___

15. Acreage: approx. 5000 sq. ft.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

NAME				
HISTORIC				
	Bethesda M. E. Church	1		
AND/OR COMM				
	Browningsville Method	list Church		
LOCATI	ON			
STREET & NUM				
•	Bethesda Church Road			
CITY, TOWN			CONGRESSIONAL DISTR	ICT
	Damascus **	EVICINITY OF Brownings	ville 6	
STATE	Maryland	Montgon		
ا	· ·		-	
CLASSI	FICATION			
CATEGO	RY OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRES	ENT USE
_DISTRICT	PUBLIC	_OCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM
XXBUILDING(S	XXPRIVATE	XXUNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL	PARK
STRUCTURE		WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	PRIVATE RESIDEN
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS
OBJECT	IN PROCESS	YES: RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
		VEC. LINDECTRICTED	INDUSTRIAL	TRANSPORTATION
	BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED	_INDUSTRIAL	
OWNER	BEING CONSIDERED	X360	MILITARY	xx ^{OTHER} unuse
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NAME Tru	OF PROPERTY stees of Bethesda Met	X 3∕40	_MILITARY (Re elephone #: 25	ev. Chance) 3-2721 cip code
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STREET & NUM Betl	Stees of Bethesda Met BER nesda Church Road	thodist Church Te	_MILITARY (Re elephone #: 25	cv. Chance) 3-2721 cip code
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CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

__EXCELLENT _G00D

__DETERIORATED RUINS

__UNALTERED *ALTERED

*ORIGINAL SITE __MOVED DATE....

_xFAIR

__UNEXPOSED

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This five bay by seven bay, one and a half story frame church faces northeast on Bethesda Church Road. It is opposite a modern brick church building which serves the same congregation in an enlarged church structure.

The 1871 frame church has fieldstone foundations and has recently been covered by textured aluminum siding clapboards. The church is composed of two parallel structures; the northwest section is slightly forward from the southeast section. A corner tower has been built above the porch area between the northwest and southeast sections. This square frame tower is open at the first level. There is a concrete stoop and three steps beneath the tower. A stained glass tympanum window surmounts both the northeast and the southeast entrances to the porch. extends up a full two stories and has a flat roof. A railing with decorative palings and square corner posts define the top of the tower. Each corner post has a turned finial. Northeast and southeast double wooden paneled doors lead from the porch into the church. Both doors are surmounted by horizontal stained glass transoms. There is a wooden paneled door on the northwest elevation with a stained glass transom. On the southeast elevation, near the south corner is a wooden paneled door surmounted by a gabled hood supported by angle braces.

The modern clear triple-hung lancet windows are grouped singly and in pairs.

This church has a cross gabled roof, with a total of five cross gables on the four elevations. The roof has pressed metal covering. There is a round window in each of these gable ends. The cornices are all boxed and returned. On the northwest elevation there is a fivesided, two story apse. There are two lancet windows set into the apse which has a cross gable roof.

The cemetery surrounds the old church on 3 sides.

- PERIOD	AF	LEAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	IECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
_PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	X RELIGION
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	_LAW	SCIENCE
_1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LiTERATURE	SCULPTURE
1600-1699	ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
<u>ж</u> 1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION
1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	XOTHER (SPECIFY)
		INVENTION		local history

SPECIFIC DATES

(additions) Builder/ARCHITECT 1907,1939 John Mount ? 1871.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The three Browningsville Churches represent a rural Methodist congregation which dates back more than a century.

The earliest church, known as the Jimmy Day meeting house, may have been in existence as early as 1808; by 1865 it was known as the Bethesda Methodist Episcopal Church. The congregation came from Frederick as well as upper Montgomery County, as the community of Browningsville is situated near the County line.

By 1871 the old church was too small for the congregation; it was demolished and the current frame church constructed.2 The builder was

probably John Mount, who was well known in the Damascus area.

In 1891 John D. Purdum, executor of the will of John L. Purdum, granted 96 square perches of land near the church lot to the Trustees of the Bethesda M.E. Church "to be held in trust by them for the rise of Bethesda M.E. Church as a burying ground. "3 A comparison of surnames represented on the Board of Trustees at that time with present-day church members reflects the stability of the area -- Burdette, Browning, Walker, Hobbs, Purdum and Snyder. Another half acre was added to the burial ground in 1927.4

In 1922, John and Hattie Walker and Elizabeth Cutsaid deeded 4172 square feet in Browningsville to the Trustees "for the purpose of building a Hall thereon for the use and benefit of the members of Bethesda M.E. Church located near Browningsville, and Bethesda Lodge No. 184 I.O.G.T. located in Browningsville, Md. ... No dancing or card playing to be allowed in said Hall."5 to be allowed in said Hall.

By 1965 the congregation had outgrown the 1871 church and the Trustees purchased 5 acres of land at the corner of Bethesda Church and Kemptown Roads on which to construct a new one. The old memorial windows were transferred to the new church, and it was dedicated in June 1978.

The congregation, which numbers over 375, plans to demolish the 1871

structure.

FOOTNOTES:

- County Courier, March 30, 1977; Building appears on the Martinet & Bond Map of Montgomery County, 1865.
- Information from Edna Linthicum, telephone interview, May 1979 Land Records of Montgomery County, Md., JA 27/101 (May 27, 1891).

- 4 Ibid., 428/165 (June 14, 1927).
 5 Land Records, op. cit., 314/432 (May 8, 1922).
 6 Ibid., 3418/599 (October 6, 1965).
 CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Land Records of Montgomery County, Maryland Maps: 1865 (Martinet and Bond); 1879 (Hopkins Atlas) Edna Linthicum, longtime worker at church, telephone interview, May, 1979

CONTINUI	ON SEPARA	ATE SHEET	IF NECESSAI	ŖY			
10 GEOGR	APHICAL	DATA					
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11 FORM P	REPARED	BY					
NAME / TITLE							
	Eileen Mc	Guckian	Candace	Reed,	Arch.	Description	n 5/79
ORGANIZATION	C 7 0	Th. •		•		DATE	
	<u>Sugar Loai</u>	Regional	Tralls		926	-4510	

STREET & NUMBER **TELEPHONE** Box 87, Stronghold CITY OR TOWN STATE Dickerson Maryland 20753

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO:

Ma. and Historical Total 21 State Circle Annapol Mary. 267-1438

SUGARLOAF REGISHAL TRAILS Bex 87. Strangaald Dickerson, Md. 20753 (301) 925-4510

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM

for the NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

						•
	AND/OR HISTORIC:					
	l Beth	nesda Meth	odist Chur	ch		
2.	LOCATION					
	STREET AND NUMBERS					
	Beth	esda Chur	ch Road &	Kemptow	n Road	
	CITY OR TOWN:					
	STATE	scus				
				COUNTY:	•	
T.		land		Monto	omery	
.	CLASSIFICATION	7				
;	CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBI
	District Building	☐ Public	Public Acquisitio	n:	Occupied	Yes:
:	Site Structure	Privote	☐ In Proce		Unoccupied	Restricte
	☐ Object	☐ Both	☐ Being C	onsidered	Preservation work	Unrestric
					in progress	☐ No
	PRESENT USE (Check One or A	fore as Appropriate				<u> </u>
			Pork		7 7	
	<u> </u>		Privote Resident		Tronsportation	Comments
	☐ Educational ☐ Mi		Raligious		Other (Specity)	
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4.	OWNER OF PROPERTY OWNER'S NAME:		Scientific Methodist	Churc	h	
4.	OWNER OF PROPERTY			Churc	h	
4.	OWNER OF PROPERTY OWNER'S NAME: Trustees of			Churc	h	
	OWNER OF PROPERTY OWNER'S NAME: Trustees O: STREET AND NUMBER: CITY OR TOWN: Damascus	f Bethesda		STATE:		
5.	OWNER OF PROPERTY OWNER'S NAME: Trustees o: STREET AND NUMBER: CITY OR TOWN: Damascus LOCATION OF LEGAL DESC	f Bethesda		STATE:	h ryland	
5.	OWNER OF PROPERTY OWNER'S NAME: Trustees of Street and number: CITY OR TOWN: Damascus LOCATION OF LEGAL DESC	f Bethesda	Methodist	STATE:		
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		Alte		☐ Unaltered		·	☐ Maved	Original Site	
	DESCRIBE THE PE	RESENT # 1D OR	IGINAL (If kno	wn) PHYSICAL	APPEA	RANCE			

The building is a frame structure now covered with aluminum siding. It is of cross-plan, with a porch tower between the north and east arms of the cross. The end of each arm is gabled, with a returned cornice; each gable end except the west has a round window. The north and south arms have double pointed arched windows flanked by lancets. The east arm has three pointed arched windows. The west (chancel) end is semi-hexagonal with lancet windows on the diagonal walls. The balustraded tower has round windows near the top; the arched doorway openings have stained glass tympanums.

Check One or More as 15th Century	Appropriate) 16th Century 17th Century	☐ 18th Century ☐ 19th Century	20th Century
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicab	le and Known) 1871	(cornerstone)	
REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Che	ock One or More as Appropri	ate)	
Abar iginal	Education	Palitical	Urban Planning
Prehistoric	Engineering	Religion/Phi-	Other (Specify)
Historic	Industry	losophy	
Agriculture	☐ Invention	Science	
Architecture	☐ Londscope	Sculpture	
☐ Aft	Architecture	Social/Human-	
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FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

See correspondence dated June 12, 1984

ACTION TAKEN

The following sites have been reviewed and found not suitable for regulation under the Historic Preservation Ordinance. Those sites also listed on the Locational Atlas will no longer be subject to regulation under the Moratorium

on Alteration and Demolition.

Site No.	011 P	ricelacion	and bemoiltion.
10/2			
10/9		23/70	
10/11)		23/98-1	
10/22		24/12	
10/25		24/14	. •
10/54	C'A - 11-	24/15	· `
•	Site No.	25/1	
10/71	1.5160	25/10-1	
10/73	15/68	27/5	
10/74	15/69	27/7	Site No.
10/74	16/19	*27/11	
11/8	*17/4	* 27/13	35/6
12/14-1	17/55	28/15	36/9
12/16	18/1	28/26	*37/4
12/26	18/9	30/3	·
	18/22	30/7	
13/15	18/27	30/9	the commended for decimation by the
13/16	18/29-1	30/15	*Recommended for designation by the Mont. Co. Historic Preservation
13/28	19/8	30/17	Commission.
13/32	19/18	30/19	Commission.
	19/20	31/9	**These sites were previously considered
14/1	20/6	33/3	by the County Council and found not
14/15	20/14	33/5	to warrant regulation under-the
14/18	20/27	33/11	Historic Preservation Ordinance.
14/19	22/5	*34/1	They are listed here to bring the
14/23	22/6-1	*34/9	functional Master Plan in conformance
14/30	22/18	- 24/7	with Council's actions.
14/31	22/21		
14/40	22/22		
14/48	22/23		
14/54	22/24		
1 <i>5</i> /10	23/13		

This site was removed from the Locational Atlas and Index of Historic Sites in Montgomery County and is not included in the Master Plan for the county. This determination was made by the Montgomery County Planning Board on June 17, 1982.



NAME BETHESDA METH. CH M; \$\frac{1}{2}\text{10-11}

LOCATION R4.122 BROWNINGSVILLE, Md.

PHOTO TAKEN 1/22/74 M.DWYER



NAME BETHESDA METH CH.

LOCATION Rt. 122 BROWNINGS VICLE, Md

PHOTO TAKEN 1/22/74 M.DWYER

FACADE W



NAME BETHESDA METH. CH.

LOCATION PL 122 BROWNINGSVILLE, Md.

FACADE E

PHOTO TAKEN 1/22/74 MIDWIER



n: \$10-11

NAME BETHESDA METH. CH.

LOCATION LA 122 BROWNINGS VILLE, Md.

FACADE LOOKING S

PHOTO TAKEN 1/22/74 M.DWYER_